

THE UNITED STATES IN WORLD WAR II

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No one really wanted another war in 1940. I mean, both Japan and Germany flexed their imperialist muscles throughout their respective geopolitical spheres, but in reality neither regime welcomed the start of another global conflict. After her successful aggression in the Rhineland, Austria, and Czechoslovakia Germany never considered for a moment that Britain and France would fight to defend Poland, especially since the Nazis enjoyed Soviet support. The Third Reich failed to grasp the significance of the 1940 Atlantic Charter, and they paid for their ignorance with their failure to crush the English in the 1940 Battle of Britain, when the British saved their island with *American Lend Lease* supplies only . . . not American troops. In addition, Hitler's *Wehrmacht* was more than occupied after his 1940 betrayal and invasion of the Soviet Union; the Nazi onslaught left little in the way to take on the British, much less the British with American help. On the other side of the world, Admiral Yamamoto berated his superiors in Japan for waking the America "sleeping giant," fully realizing the danger the US would pose once her mammoth industry was put on a war footing. Yamamoto famously told the Japanese Imperial Staff that "I can run wild (in the Pacific) for six months, perhaps a year. After that I can make no promises, and I fear defeat." Even the probability of the United States faced with a global two-front war did little to brighten Yamamoto's prospects. Put simply: if you are going to tangle with the Americans, do it now, and get the job done quickly . . . before they have time to retaliate. Both Axis powers had designed their militaries for their particular ambitions; indeed both were quite similar in that they were dependent on quick strikes that would incapacitate their enemies before reprisal. Whether the target was Holland, Norway, or France, or New Guinea, Singapore, or Indochina, both Germany and Japan employed the "lightening war:" the *blitzkrieg*. Problem? This strategy was developed for a short term strike. When the US joins the war, it won't be for as short term. Americans had the resources and manpower to will stay until the job is done.

AMERICA MOBILIZES FOR WAR

Yep, the specter of US involvement had both Axis powers on edge, but truth be known the US was in no way prepared to fight anyone anywhere. In 1940 the United States sported the number 17th ranked military in the world, with a pitiful air force and decrepit navy decimated by US adherence to the Washington Armaments Conference. To add to American troubles, the country was out of practice at being an industrial juggernaut due to the devastation of the Great Depression. If America is going to fight this war, she'd better start getting to it.

Organizing for War. It ain't easy getting ready to fight a global war on two fronts, against powerful, battle-hardened enemies in normal times, and darned near impossible in the midst of a Depression. However, FDR learned his lessons well from WWI, and set about organizing his administration to prepare the US for war. Much like Woodrow Wilson's WWI War Industries Board, FDR created the **War Production Board (WPD)** and **Office of War Mobilization (OWM)** to both manage war industries and resources (WPD), and set industrial production priorities (OWM). To control civilian consumption of material that may be of military use, as well as to stabilize the civilian economy, the **Office of Price Administration (OPA)** froze price and wages, as well as directing the system of national rationing of strategic commodities such as sugar, meat, rubber, grease, and gasoline. Organized labor lost its leverage of the strike with the 1943 passage of the Smith-Connally Act, which gave the government the authority to nationalize and operate any vital wartime industry that was susceptible to labor disputes.¹

¹ The Smith Connally Act was passed over the veto of the pro-labor Roosevelt.

The key to American war potential was its **industrial output**, which consist of the amount of production gained by a set numbers of workers. The more workers, the more production. Needless to say this eliminated the Depression-era problem of unemployment; indeed by 1943 unemployment was practically non-existent in the United States. Big business was able to experiment with more effective means of production; by 1943 the Kaiser Shipyards were cranking out a completed warship every fourteen days . . . no country on earth could match that performance. Big business benefitted greatly from its government war contracts; by the end of the war over 70% of government wartime business was conducted by the 100 largest companies in America, which consequently swallowed up its smaller competition.

A key aspect of any wartime economy is research and development. The US government place significant emphasis on scientific advancements, primarily due to the German proficiency to develop advanced weaponry. The **Office of Research and Development** was established to work with scientists and research universities to develop radar and sonar systems, wireless communications,² proximity arming devices, jet propulsion and rocketry, guidance systems, and, most ominously, an atomic weapon. One of the great ironies of the war was that the preponderance of scientists working on American war technology, particularly the atomic bomb, were European exiles and deportees, many of them Jewish,³ who either left Europe to escape Nazi persecution or were exiled from of Germany.

Albert Einstein
Old Grove Rd.
Hassau Point
Peconic, Long Island
August 2nd, 1939

F.D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
White House
Washington, D.C.

Sirs:

Some recent work by E.Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been communicated to me in manuscript, leads me to expect that the element uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future. Certain aspects of the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action on the part of the Administration. I believe therefore that it is my duty to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable - through the work of Joliot in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America - that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radium-like elements would be generated. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable - though much less certain - that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed. A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory. However, such bombs might very well prove to be too heavy for transportation by air.

-2-

The United States has only very poor ores of uranium in moderate quantities. There is some good ore in Canada and the former Czechoslovakia, while the most important source of uranium is Belgian Congo.

In view of this situation you may think it desirable to have some permanent contact maintained between the Administration and the group of physicists working on chain reactions in America. One possible way of achieving this might be for you to entrust with this task a person who has your confidence and who could perhaps serve in an unofficial capacity. His task might comprise the following:

a) to approach Government Departments, keep them informed of the further development, and put forward recommendations for Government action, giving particular attention to the problem of securing a supply of uranium ore for the United States;

b) to speed up the experimental work, which is at present being carried on within the limits of the budgets of University laboratories, by providing funds, if such funds be required, through his contacts with private persons who are willing to make contributions for this cause, and perhaps also by obtaining the co-operation of industrial laboratories which have the necessary equipment.

I understand that Germany has actually stopped the sale of uranium from the Czechoslovakian mines which she has taken over. That she should have taken such early action might perhaps be understood on the ground that the son of the German Under-Secretary of State, von Weizsäcker, is attached to the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut in Berlin where some of the American work on uranium is now being repeated.

Yours very truly,
A. Einstein
(Albert Einstein)

Albert Einstein's 1939 Letter to FDR Warning of German Research into Atomic Weapons

(See Next Page for Partial Transcript)

² WWII saw the first experimentation with what would later become WiFi technology. Oddly enough, the primary developer of this technology, which was assigned to the Navy Department for sea-born wireless communications, was Hollywood actress Hedy Lamar, who later gained notoriety as appearing in the first nude scene in an American film. What does it say about our social conscious when the inventor of WiFi isn't known for inventing WiFi?

³ Of course, the most famous German exile was Albert Einstein, but other scientists such as Niels Bohr and Edward Teller were every bit as vital to the success of the **Manhattan Project**: the program to construct the world's first atomic bomb.

“In the course of the last four months it has been made probable — through the work of (Werner) Heisenberg in Germany Fermi and Szilárd in America — that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radium-like elements would be generated. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

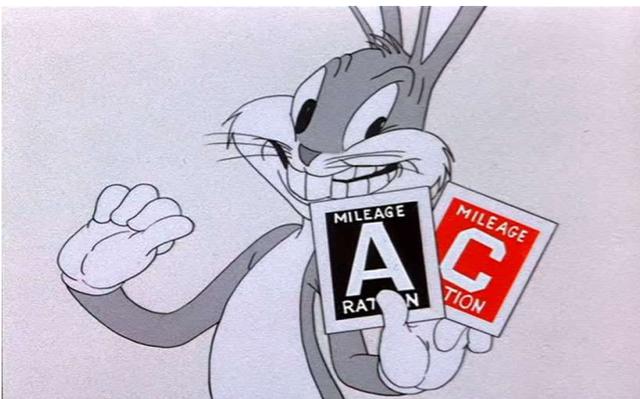
This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of weapons, and it is conceivable — though less certain — that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed . . . I understand that Germany has actually stopped the sale of uranium from the Czechoslovakian mines which she has taken over. That she should have taken such early action might perhaps be understood on the ground that the German Under-Secretary of State is assigned to the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute in Berlin, where the success of the American work on uranium is now being repeated. I cannot overemphasize the danger of German possession of an atomic weapon to the security of the democracies.”

Partial Text, Einstein’s Letter to Roosevelt, 1939

OK, next problem, and it’s a biggy: **How are you going to pay for such a war?** Consider that not only are America’s primary trading partners being devastated by the war, particularly the German U-Boat war in the Atlantic, they also are experiencing the same economic depression as the US . . . in other words, no foreign loans forthcoming. So, you know what comes next, ie the first option: TAX! Personal and corporate income taxes were raised to support the war effort; to ease the pain of individual taxation the Treasury developed a system of **automatic payroll deduction** . . . I guess they felt that if you didn’t cut the check personally you would feel it. Wrong. In any event, you have hopefully seen how Americans react to too much taxation . . . jeez, man, it’s why we are who we are. The balance of this financing will have to come from mother means. To address this shortfall, the Treasury Department mirrored the WWI program issuing government-financed bonds, dropping the WWI name of Liberty Bonds for the WWII title of simply **War Bonds**. Officials and celebrities . . . including athletes and Hollywood actors (including Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and Disney), spent the entire war travelling the nation or appearing in advertisement selling War Bonds.

In a major war, resource and material allocation is essential, consequently an admittedly unpopular method of prioritizing consumer items for the war effort came about through a system of **rationing**. Items on the ration lists included rubber, scrap steel and aluminum, cooking grease, petroleum products (including gasoline), glass, nylon (which PO’d women everywhere who had grown rather fond of their nylon stockings), meat, vegetables, and other assorted consumer goodies. The system was unpopular, and people whined about it, but consider this: in the world’s greatest consumer nation (and we have talked about this, children), the number one category of consumer items is CRAP, and when that crap can be utilized to win a war, the sheer volume of American consumerism demands a diversion from the norm. Not fun, but it makes perfect sense.

Bugs and Disney Promote Gasoline and Scrap Rationing



IS HE YOUR CHILD?
 you don't want this!

Buy **WAR BONDS**
 before is **TOO LATE!**

No. 18

SUPERMAN 10¢

WAR SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS DO THE JOB ON THE JAPANAZIS!

WARNING!

OUR HOMES ARE IN DANGER NOW!

OUR JOB KEEP 'EM FIRING

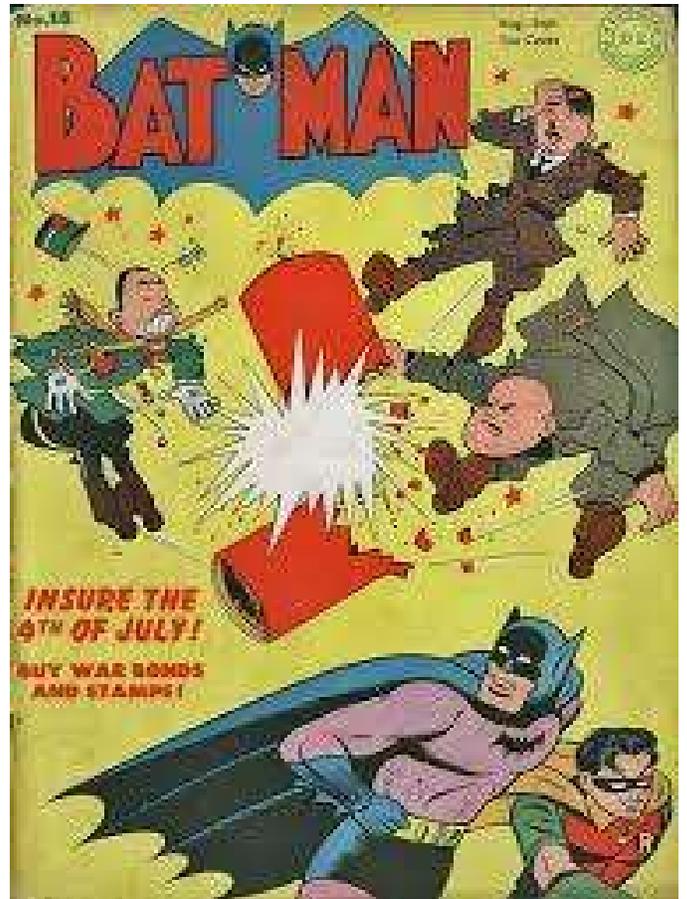
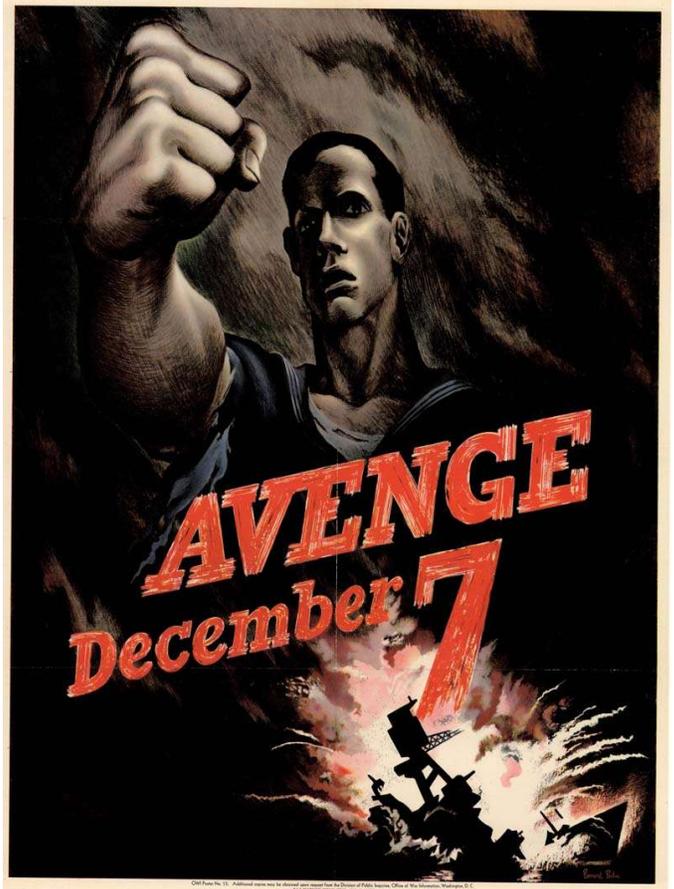
What are **YOU** going to do about it?

5200 Yank Prisoners Killed by Jap Torture In Philippines; Cruel 'March of Death' Described

Other Thousands of Victims Were Filipinos; Captives Were Starved, Beaten, Bayoneted, Shot and Even Beheaded. Army and Navy Report

STAY ON THE JOB UNTIL EVERY MURDERING JAP IS WIPED OUT!

U.S. ARMY OFFICIAL PESTER



Propaganda. One of the blessings of our democracy is the fact that the United States of American can fight not sustain any war without the support of the American people. In other words, we the people send our troops to war, and when the carnage gets too great or our sense of justice is compromised, we the people have the power to stop the madness (see Vietnam) and bring our kids home. Consequently, here's the dilemma for an American government at war: How do you obtain and sustain maintain that support for the duration of a war that may last a long time and costs tens of thousands. . . maybe hundreds of thousands . . .of American casualties? The American people have to believe in the moral justification of a cause before they are willing to sacrifice our most precious resource: their young. That's why every war has as part of its strategic vision a propaganda ministry; in WWII it was known as the Office of War Information. **WARNING:** An important aspect of wartime propaganda in any war is the depiction of the enemy in the most unflattering and insulting terms possible. As such, American propaganda during the war was extremely racist, particularly in its depiction of the Japanese.

War and American Society. Folks, there's nothing good about war; it is the extreme form of human interaction that calls for the species to destroy itself. However, it would be a source of some relief if war bonded people together in common cause and erased other forms of social idiocy like racism, sexism, etc. Sadly, this hasn't been the case; seems like we would rather hate each other than protect each other. Despite this, American minorities served their country with distinction, which is dramatic testament to the character of these people. After all, many believed that, due to Jim Crow, immigration restrictions, and segregation, they were fighting for a nation that never wanted them around in the first place.

African-Americans: Any war effort consists of two domestic factors: a military factor and a productive factor. African Americans filled both of these roles during the war; approximately one million blacks served in the military, while over 1.5 million went to work in the war industries. However, military or civilian service was not without difficulties; indeed not much had changed since WWI with regard to the desegregation of the military. Most black soldiers were relegated to support duties such as drivers, orderlies, and cooks, while many industries placed strict restrictions on black laborers, especially with regard to contact with white workers. African American women were completely shut out from the labor force. In 1941, black labor leader A. Phillip Randolph discovered that black women were prohibited work in national defense industries; in response he threatened to march on Washington DC. Dudes, it's really bad for a nation's credibility when a country fighting for democracy is plagued by marchers protesting inequality and racism. To prevent such an affront to America's reputation, not to mention providing propaganda fodder to American enemies, FDR issued Executive Order 8802, which banned racial segregation in companies possessing federal defense contracts. In another victory for civil rights advocates, in 1944 the Supreme Court ruled in Smith v Albright that it was unconstitutional for political parties to ban African Americans from membership.

Mexicans: More than 300,000 Mexican Americans served in the US military during WWII; most had remained in the United States after WWI and subsequently acquired American citizenship. However, the American southwest, particularly California, experienced an acute labor shortage created by farm workers entering military service. To fulfill the need for migrant farm labor, the US government and Mexico signed the Mexican Farm Labor Agreement, which created the bracero program. The *braceros* were temporary laborers who were allowed to bypass traditional immigration restrictions to work in the US for the duration of the war. Most *braceros* settled in urban areas like Los Angeles in ethnic neighborhoods called *barrios*, and as long as the *braceros* remained in the *barrios* they prospered. However, when young Mexicans began to leave the *barrios* and mingle with whites in clubs, cultures collided. In 1943 a group of young Mexican males frequenting clubs in Los Angeles were spotted by American sailors and marines on shore leave. The sight of military age "foreigners" enjoying themselves, with white women no less, during wartime was too much for the sensibilities of sailors and marines who had seen American young lives lost on the battlefields and at sea. Violence erupted; they became known as the Zoot Suit Riots, named after the distinctive suits worn by Mexican youth.



Braceros in their Zoot Suits



Soldiers and Sailors Looking for Zoot Suiters, Los Angeles 1943

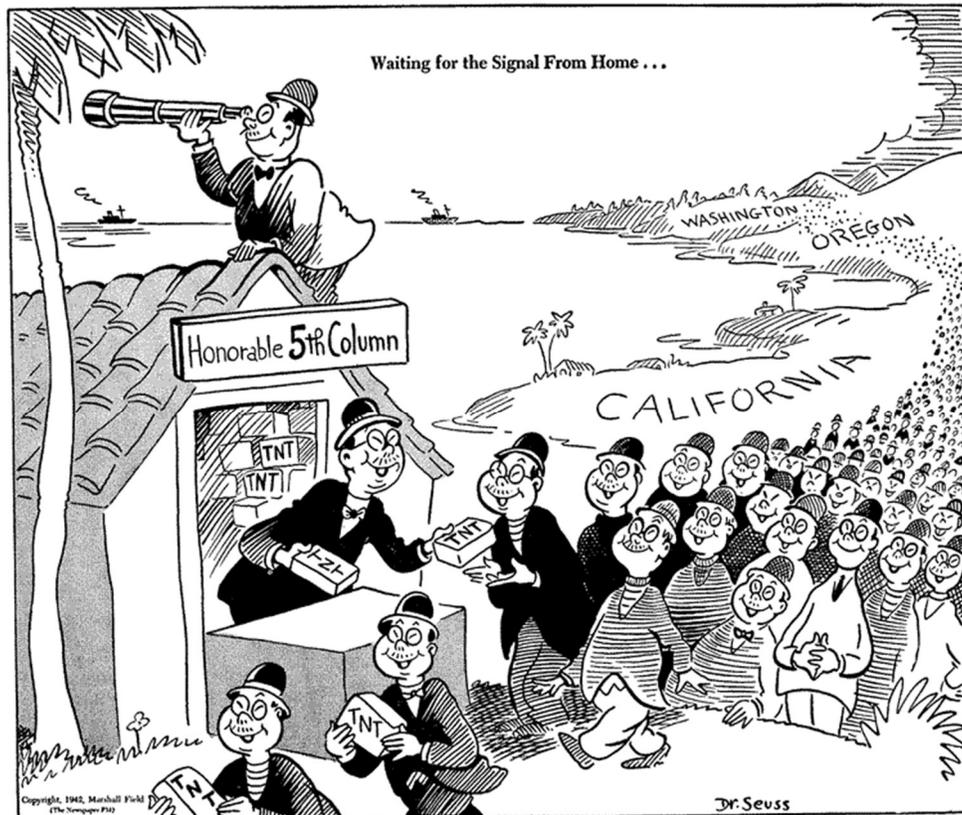
Tensions remained high in barrios, particularly in Los Angeles and San Antonio, especially after many *braceros* opted to remain in the US after the war. The Zoot Suit Riots was the first instance of ethnic violence between white Americans and Mexicans; unfortunately it would not be the last.

Native Americans: Approximately 25,000 Native Americans served in the US military during the war, the vast majority on the front lines in combat units. However, Indian units gained fame not by fighting but through communications. Due to the issue of Japanese code breakers reading US codes in the Pacific, the army launched the Code Talker program, in which Indians, particularly Navajo, communicated with each other in their native tongues. Language is not a code, consequently Japanese could no longer decipher messages due to their inability to break the Navajo language.⁴

⁴ In 1944 two Japanese males were apprehended in New Mexico attempting to sneak onto the Navajo reservation. Under interrogation they revealed that their mission was to immerse themselves and learn the language to defeat the effectiveness of the Code Talkers.

Ironically, Native American military service had an adverse effect on Indian culture. Many Indians, after exposure to life outside the reservation, opted to pursue prosperity in the white man's world rather than return to the reservation. As a result reservation population experienced a significant drop in Indian youth, the irony being that the tribal identity recovered by FDR's Indian Reorganization Act was ultimately diminished by service in FDR's war.

Japanese Americans: The epitome of awkwardness? Being Japanese-American the day after Pearl Harbor. The hate came down, and it came down hard, especially in areas of Japanese population concentration like the West Coast. As the war progressed and the American war industry moved west, growing paranoia and suspicion regarding the loyalty of Japanese-Americans grew to massive proportions. Many feared that second and third generation Japanese-Americans were members of a Japanese "**Fifth Column**," the common name for a subversive espionage and sabotage network.



Dr. Seuss' Commentary on the Fifth Column

By 1942, the paranoia was oppressive to the point where public opinion forced FDR's hand. In February FDR signed into law **Executive Order 9066**, which directed the relocation and internment of the Japanese-American population living in California, Oregon, and Washington. FDR's order was controversial; it continued an American tradition of the relaxation of civil liberties during times of national emergency (John Adams' 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts; Abraham Lincoln's 1862 suspension of *habeas corpus*; Woodrow Wilson's 1917 Espionage and Sedition Acts). In 1944 Japanese internees filed a class-action legal challenge to internment, but the Supreme Court ruled in ***Korematsu v US*** that internment was constitutional during times of national emergency.

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**
Presidio of San Francisco, California
May 3, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY**

Living in the Following Area:

All of that portion of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, within that boundary hereinafter as the point at which North Figueroa Street meets the following the middle of the Los Angeles River; thence southerly and following the mid line to East First Street; thence westerly to East First Street to Adams Street; thence southerly on Adams Street to East Third Street; thence westerly on East Third Street to Main Street; thence southerly on Main Street to First Street; thence northwesterly on First Street to Figueroa Street; thence northwesterly on Figueroa Street to the point of departure.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 33, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both adult and minor, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. M., T. Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. M., Sunday, May 3, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Southern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

Japanese United Church,
123 North San Pedro Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of visiting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency. The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

- (a) Building and fixtures (see instruction) for each member of the family;
- (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
- (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
- (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
- (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as refrigerators, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be permitted to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J. L. DeWITT

Executive Order 9066

Women: For women, the war years in American were reminiscent of the 1920s by virtue of increased opportunity; however this opportunity was of a far different character. Over 200,000 women served in the US military, particularly the Army and Navy.⁵ The primary area of front-line service for women was the Naval Nurse's Corps, particularly in the Pacific. Volunteer opportunities for women were offered through the WAAC (Women's Army Auxillary Corps) and WAVE (Women Accepted for Emergency Volunteer Service) programs.

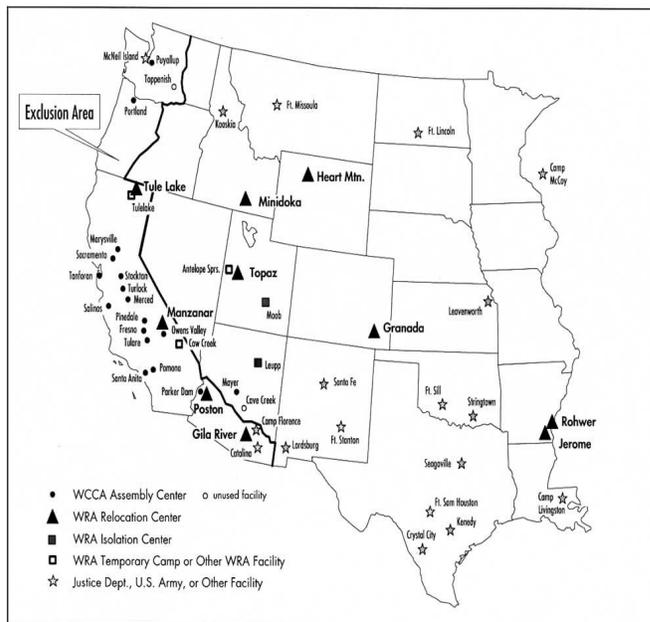
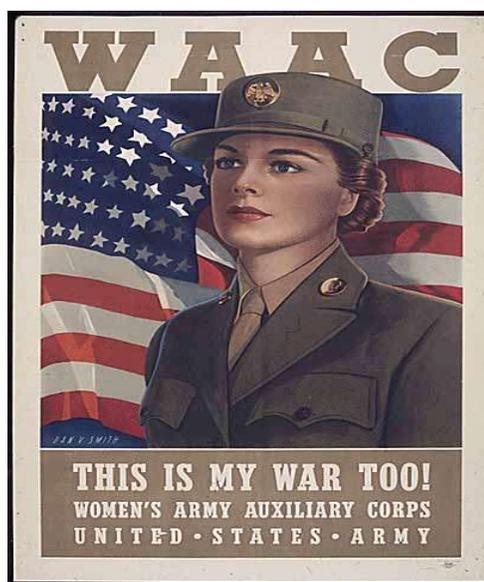


Figure 1.1. Sites in the western U.S. associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Japanese Relocation Camps



⁵ The Marine Corps did not accept women volunteers for service due to their emphasis on combat duty. Both the Army and Navy offered service opportunities in clerical and other non-combat roles; the Navy's non-combat support system supported the Marines.



Many women with exceptional mechanical abilities were enlisted as aircraft mechanics.

However, the greatest contribution by women was in the civilian workforce, where over 5 million women entered industrial facilities and built the weapons of war. These were not clerical positions; these jobs were heavy industrial construction jobs that proved that women could indeed do a man's job. More than any other occurrence during the war, the civilian female working demographic, popularly known as "Rosie the Riveter," practically demolished the concept of separate spheres.



Rosie. One Bad Mama

I LOVE the Rosie on the right resting her feet on *Mein Kampf*

THE WAR

Troops, it's hard to teach this war because America actually waged two wars simultaneously on opposite sides of the world. Only the United States, with its industrial might, could have pulled this off, but in the early stages victory was far from certain. In December 1941 the US was thrust into a global conflict against two enemies who had years of fighting experience and possessed the world's greatest land army (the German *Wehrmacht*) and naval fleet (the Japanese Imperial *Kaigun*). Just like WWI, the US was woefully unprepared, even moreso due to adherence to the disarmament treaties of the 1920s and 1930s and the debilitating effects of the Great Depression. However, excuses don't cut it in war; and Americans had to trash their Depression funk and get to work . . . and soon.

It's vital to understand the state of the war at the time of America's entrance. In Europe, Hitler's gamble with Operation Barbarossa (the June 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union) was crushed at **the Battle of Stalingrad, the turning point of the European war**. Allied military planners were contemplating the practicality of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's demand for the opening of a second front; all agreed that the war-weary Soviet Red Army needed relief, but both Winston Churchill and FDR disagreed on where to launch the front.⁶ In the Pacific, the aftermath of Pearl Harbor left the Americans scrambling with an appropriate response. I mean, you have to do something, right?

Due to FDR's promises to Churchill in the Atlantic Charter, the United States had to forgo any sustained response to Japan and focus its immediate attention on the Europe, a move unpopular with an American public . . . and military . . . infuriated with the surprise attack on Pearl. The war was fought simultaneously; however for the sake of clarity we'll take the two theaters one at a time. First: Hitler, the Nazis, and Europe

EUROPE

1942: Both the US and Britain agreed on a plan with which to engage Hitler in Europe. Cognizant of the Soviet offensive on the eastern front, the plan focused on two objectives. First, the Allies had to eradicate the German Navy's (*Kriegsmarine*) **U-Boat menace** in the Atlantic; American Lend Lease aid to both England and the Soviet Union was being devastated by the German wolf packs. Secondly, the Allies sought to establish long range bomber bases in England and Italy to facilitate the **strategic bombing of German cities**, irregardless of whether the targets were of a military advantage. Yep, we're talking total, modern war.

The first application of American troops in the European Campaign came November 1942 with **Operation Torch**, the invasion of North Africa. The Germans, led by their greatest general Erwin Rommel (aka the Desert Fox), had invaded oil-rich North Africa with their *Afrika Korps*; British and American troops were determined to kick Rommel back to Berlin. American forces were led by the irascible George Patton, who combined with his British counterpart, equally irascible Bernard Montgomery, to drive the *Wehrmacht* out of North Africa by May 1943. By summer, American and British forces invaded Sicily, the precursor for the invasion of Italy. By June 1944, Rome fell to American forces, giving Allied forces the entire southern Italian peninsula and its airfields, from which American bombers could attack German-held oil fields in Hungary.

Back in January of 1943, FDR and Winston Churchill met in the Moroccan city of Casablanca in the first of several Allied wartime conferences. At the **Casablanca Conference**, both FDR and Churchill agreed to a military strategy of total German capitulation, or unconditional surrender, as well as laying the groundwork for the forthcoming invasion of Sicily. There would be no compromise peace treaty in Europe.

⁶ Churchill wanted to launch the second front from Italy and the Adriatic; FDR and Stalin favored a cross English Channel invasion of Europe in France.

In November 1943, Churchill and FDR met again, this time joined by the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, at the **Teheran Conference**. It was at Teheran that the “Big 3” discussed plans to open a second front in Europe.⁷ The Soviets had been engaged with the Germans since the 1941 invasion of Russia, and Stalin had grown both weary and angry of his country absorbing the bulk of fighting and casualties. Consequently, there was no request for a second front; Stalin demanded one. Churchill and FDR agreed, and decided on a launch target of spring 1944.⁸

On 6 June 1944 the Allies launched the mightiest invasion armada, code named **D-Day**, in history. Allied forces landed at four separate locations along the Normandy coast, all of which were miles from where the Germans expected the landing.⁹ By December, as the Allies were pushing the Germans out of France and closing in on the Rhine River, Hitler ordered an ill-conceived, desperate offensive in an effort to stop the Allied. This attack took advantage of an Allied salient, or bulge, in the German front; hence the subsequent conflict is known as the **Battle of the Bulge**. After a month of fierce fighting in driving snow, the Allies broke the German offensive, and began the push to Berlin.

In February 1945, the Big 3 met on the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea in the most important conference of the war, the **Yalta Conference**. The Yalta Conference dealt with the future of both post-war Germany and post-war Europe; the agreements centered around 5 main objectives:

- Germany was to be divided into four zones of occupation, each controlled by the USSR, the US, Britain, and France.
- The German capital of Berlin would likewise be divided into four zones.
- All countries liberated from Nazi control would be allowed free elections.¹⁰
- The USSR reiterated its promise to join the US in fighting Japan.
- The victors would sponsor and create a global organization dedicated to world peace, known as the United Nations.¹¹

Churchill left Yalta with a bad taste in his mouth; he felt that Stalin had played the terminally-ill FDR for a fool with his free elections promise. When Stalin demanded that these elections be supervised by the Red Army, these countries fate was sealed. Churchill was right; in his zeal to create a Wilsonian post-war utopia FDR sold out to the devil and doomed Eastern Europe for 50 years.

From February to April 1945 the US, Britain, and Soviet Union obliterated German resistance in all all-out raced to Berlin. On 30 April Hitler did humanity a solid and committed suicide; on 8 May 1945 the designated successor to Hitler, Admiral Karl Doenitz, surrendered to the Allies. The war in Europe was over.

There is an additional footnote to WWII in Europe. Most people realized that the Nazis weren't the most, uh, pleasant of people, but few were prepared for the result of Reich's attempts at imposing Nazi racial policy. In January 1942, Nazi party, governmental, and military met in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee to research a method by which the Reich could rid itself of the mounting thousands of Jewish and other “undesirable”

⁷ Another agreement was dragged out of Stalin: Soviet help in the war against Japan. Stalin promised he would join the Pacific War, he just didn't say when. More on this later.

⁸ It wasn't easy. Churchill wanted to invade Europe from Italy, across the Adriatic. This would, of course, give Britain possession of the rich oil fields in the Balkans. FDR knew exactly what Churchill was up to, and demanded the liberation of occupied France as the basis for a cross English Channel invasion. FDR won that battle, mainly due to support from Stalin, who wanted to occupy the Balkans himself for the same reasons as Churchill . . . which he ultimately did.

⁹ Germans expected the landing to occur at Calais, which is the nearest point in France to the English coast. Why did they believe this? Because the Allied had built a fake army around Patton in England, complete with rubber tanks and planes, that convinced German intelligence that Patton would lead the strike and land at Calais.

¹⁰ It was of interest that all of these liberated nations were occupied by the Soviets, including Poland. We'll see what “free elections” means to Uncle Joe Stalin.

¹¹ Sound familiar? Yep, it's the reincarnation of Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations.

refugees produced by the German occupation of Eastern Europe and Russia. Devised by SS head **Heinrich Himmler**, headed by SS general **Reinhardt Heydrich**, and chronicled by SS deputy **Adolf Eichmann**, the **Wannsee Conference** ultimately determined that a “Final Solution” of mass extermination was the only effective answer to the refugee crisis. Thus was born the Holocaust.



The Architects of the Holocaust: Himmler, Heydrich, Eichmann

Land	Zahl
A. Altreich	131.800
Ostmark	43.700
Ostgebiete	420.000
Generalgouvernement	2.284.000
Bialystok	400.000
Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren	74.200
Estland - judenfrei -	
Lettland	3.500
Litauen	34.000
Belgien	43.000
Dänemark	5.600
Frankreich / Besetztes Gebiet	165.000
Unbesetztes Gebiet	700.000
Griechenland	69.600
Niederlande	160.800
Norwegen	1.300
B. Bulgarien	48.000
England	330.000
Finnland	2.300
Irland	4.000
Italien einschl. Sardinien	58.000
Albanien	200
Kroatien	40.000
Portugal	3.000
Rumänien einschl. Bessarabien	342.000
Schweden	8.000
Schweiz	18.000
Serbien	10.000
Slowakei	88.000
Spanien	6.000
Türkei (europ. Teil)	55.500
Ungarn	742.800
UdSSR	5.000.000
Ukraine	2.994.684
Weißrußland aus- schl. Bialystok	446.484
Zusammen: über	11.000.000

**Eichmann’s Wannsee Notes Chronicling the Numbers
of Jews and Undesirables to be Exterminated**

The unnerving aspect of the Final Solution, outside the inhumanity of genocide, was the means around which the endeavor was designed. To deal with the massive numbers of people, the SS, under the operational command of Heydrich and Eichmann, adopted an assembly-line technique to the mass murder of millions; just as German factories were mass-producing the weapons of war, so would Nazi facilities such as Sobibor, Mauthausen, Belzec, Treblinka, and Auschwitz-Birkenau mass produce death.

“Unterscharführer Hackenholt was making great efforts to get the engine [that pumps Zyklon B gas into the chambers] running. But it doesn't go. Captain Wirth comes up. I can see he is afraid, because I am present at a disaster. Yes, I see it all and I wait. My stopwatch showed it all, 50 minutes, 70 minutes, and the engine did not start. The people wait inside the gas chambers. They can be heard weeping, "like in the synagogue", says Professor Pfannenstiel, his eyes glued to a window in the wooden door. Furious, Captain Wirth lashes the Ukrainian assisting Hackenholt twelve, thirteen times, in the face. After 2 hours and 49 minutes – the stopwatch recorded it all – the engine started. Up to that moment, the people shut up in those four crowded chambers were still alive, four times 750 persons, in four times 45 cubic meters. Another 25 minutes elapsed. Many were already dead, that could be seen through the small window, because an electric lamp inside lit up the chamber for a few moments. After 28 minutes, only a few were still alive. Finally, after 32 minutes, all were dead ... Dentists [then] hammered out gold teeth, bridges, and crowns. In the midst of them stood Captain Wirth. He was in his element, and, showing me a large can full of teeth, he said: "See, for yourself, the weight of that gold! It's only from yesterday, and the day before. You can't imagine what we find every day – dollars, diamonds, gold. You'll see for yourself!"

Eye Witness Account of Waffen SS *Obersturmführer* Kurt Gerstein at Belzec, 1942

The first extermination camps were liberated by Soviet troops advancing through Eastern Europe, especially in Poland; others were discovered by US and British troops advancing from the west. The absolute horror and disgust of the Nazi extermination program will lead to a post-war military tribunal, known as the **Nuremberg Trials**, which would determine the extent of these crimes against humanity, and offer some semblance of justice to the victims of the Holocaust.

JAPAN

No one in Japan was blind to the possible folly of attacking the United States; Admiral Yamamoto had begged the High Command to reconsider. However, once the die had been cast, the Japanese employed a strategy to defeat the Americans through the only possible means: they would bleed them into submission.

Japan's Modus Operandi: The Japanese operational plan was simple and smart. They would blitzkrieg the entire Southwest Pacific, seizing and occupying every island (including Australia) and extending its reach eastward towards the American homeland. If the Americans wished to remove the threat, they would have to expel the Japanese forces one island at a time, and we're talking about *thousands* of islands. The vital question was: To what extent would the Americans spill tons of blood to force the Japanese off of seemingly innocuous places with names like Kwajalein, Tinian, Saipan, Peleliu, or Guadalcanal? At what point would the American people demand a stop to the carnage? Such a plan would potentially take years; Japan's greatest mistake was settling in for an elongated war against the mightiest industrial potential in history. That's why Yamamoto told his superiors that he could run wild for only a year . . . after that was anybody's guess.

The initial concern for US officials after the shock of Pearl Harbor was that Japan may follow up the raid with an invasion of the Hawaiian Islands, from which the US west coast would be threatened. Consequently, given the weakness of Hawaiian defenses, and considering the fury of the American people, some sort of response was necessary.

The Doolittle Raid: On 18 April, 1942, sixteen B-25 Mitchell bombers flew off of the deck of the USS *Hornet* on a one way mission to bomb Tokyo.

“The Japanese people had been told they were invulnerable ... An attack on the Japanese homeland would cause confusion in the minds of the Japanese people and sow doubt about the reliability of their leaders. There was a second, and equally important, psychological reason for this attack ... Americans badly needed a morale boost.”

Jimmy Doolittle on the Reasoning Behind His Raid on Tokyo

Strategically speaking, the raid accomplished little, inflicting minor damage to Japanese military targets in Tokyo. However, the raid stunned the Japanese Imperial Command, and forced them to consider the vulnerability of the Homeland. The raid would force the Japanese to reconsider their operational planning, which played right into the hands of the Americans.

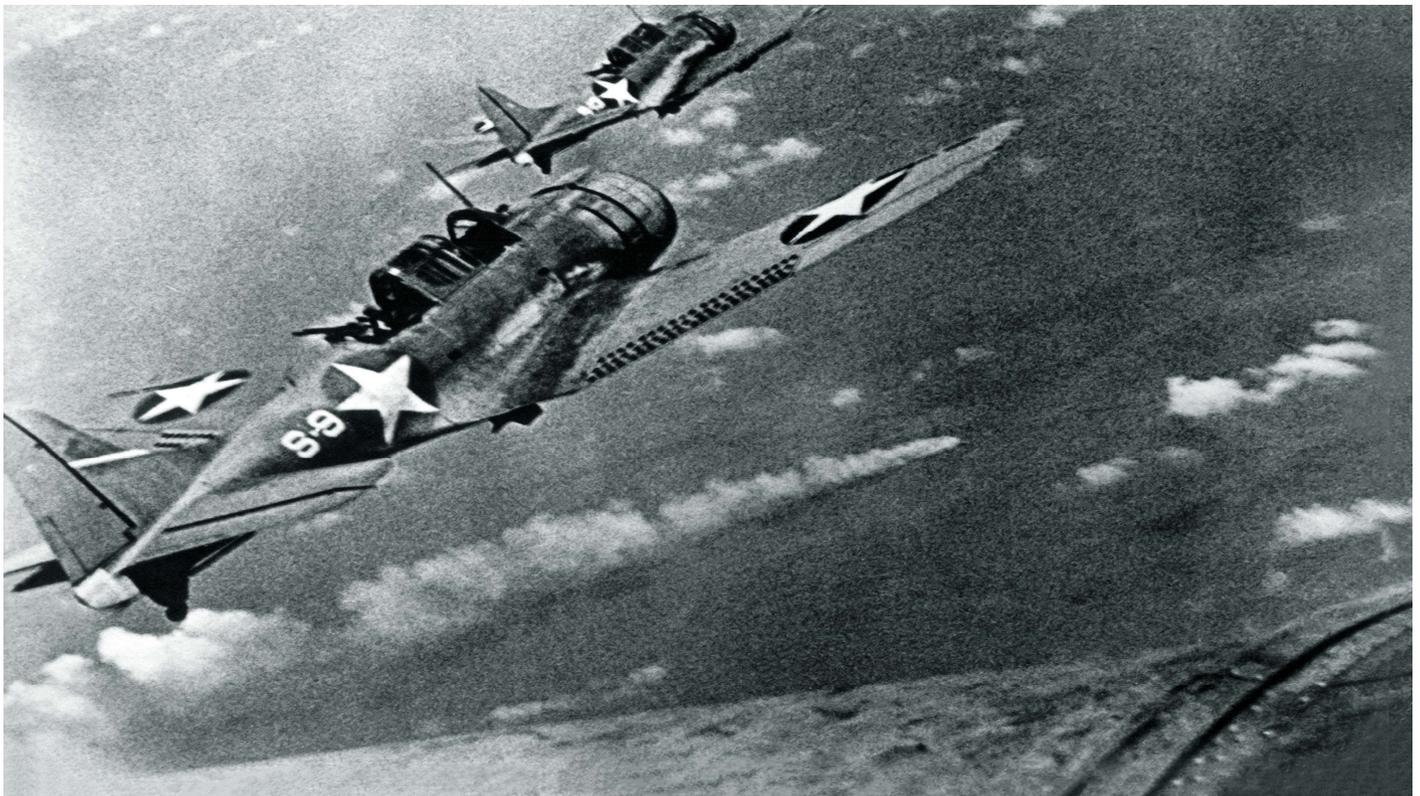
The Coral Sea: In spring 1942 the Japanese launched a campaign through New Guinea in an effort to attack the northern Australian port city of Darwin, the prelude to an invasion of Australia. The invasion force sailed south from New Guinea through the Coral Sea, where they were met by a small American naval task force. The resultant Battle of the Coral Sea held two distinctions: tactically, it resulted in a draw, as both sides lost equal naval strength. However, American resistance did stop the invasion of Australia; consequently it was regarded as an American strategic victory.¹²

Midway: The defeat at Coral Sea prompted Yamamoto to shift his planning away from the Southwest Pacific and towards the American west coast. He devised a plan through which the *Kaigun* would attack the American force on the tiny mid-Pacific island of Midway to establish a base for the invasion of Hawaii, which would give Japan leverage from which they could bargain with the Americans for an end to the fighting. However, naval code breakers in Hawaii, led by Captain Joseph Rochefort, had broken the Japanese naval codes and determined a sketchy outline of Yamamoto's plan. Because it was incredibly sketchy, and involved a number of feints and decoy movements, the US Naval High Command ordered US Pacific commander Admiral (and TEXAN) Chester Nimitz to ignore Rochefort's intel. However, Nimitz was a gambler, and realized that should the intel be correct, America would either have to accept Japanese terms or, given the US preoccupation in Europe, brace for an invasion of the American west coast. Nimitz ordered his weak three-carrier force to a position northeast of Midway to lie in ambush. On 4 June, US forces discovered Yamamoto's invasion fleet and struck. The ensuing **Battle of Midway** was an astounding upset victory for the US, and constituted the **turning point of the Pacific war**. The Japanese navy lost all four of its carriers (all of which had participated in the Pearl Harbor attack), and would never again advance in the Pacific. **After Midway, the Japanese were forced to abandon their original plan and defend her island possessions**, an strategy which would played into the strength of the Americans and ultimately doom the Empire's Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

¹² Coral Sea was significant in another way. Because it was a battle between aircraft carriers, it was the first naval battle where the combatant warships never saw each other. The entire battle was fought by naval aviation, which showed naval strategists that the future of naval warfare lie not in battleships, but rather in naval aviation.



**Death Knell for Japanese Carrier *Hiryu* After Being Hit From US Dive Bombers
From USS *Enterprise* and *Yorktown*.**



**Dauntless Dive Bomber Prepares to Attack Japanese Carrier Force.
Notice the Burning Ship Below; That's *Akagi*, Yamamoto's Flagship**

The American Offensive Begins: After Midway, the Americans started the long campaign to rid the Pacific of the Japanese. The first American Pacific offensive of the war came with the Battle for Guadalcanal, a speck of an island in the Solomon Islands off the east coast of Australia. American planners determined that US soldiers and Marines would sweep the island in as little as two to three weeks; instead the battle lasted a full six months and revealed to the US the dedication, determination, and in some cases sheer madness and intensity of their Japanese foes. The US lost 7,100 dead, compared to close to 20,000 Japanese, many of whom committed ritual suicide (*hari kiri*) as opposed to surrender. Guadalcanal, known as the Green Hell to US soldiers, forced the US to reconsider exactly how to rid the Pacific of the Japanese, lest the Japanese prediction of a blood bath come true.

Island Hopping: Guadalcanal proved to US strategists that clearing every island of Japanese occupation would indeed be a futile endeavor, one for which the American public would not stand. Face it: Who can blame any mother for saying “Freakin’ Eniwetok ain’t worth my boy’s life.” Consequently Army and Navy planners employed a brilliant strategy which used the sheer intensity Japanese occupation as a weapon against itself, known as island hopping. US Army forces, under General Douglas MacArthur, would sweep across the Southwest Pacific strongholds in New Guinea with an ultimate goal of liberating the Philippines.¹³ American naval forces, under Admiral Nimitz, would move north and west, clearing small islands (the Marshalls, Mariana, and Caroline island groups) of the Japanese through a series of naval bombardment and amphibious landings. The key to the strategy was to hit only those locations that featured a significant enemy presence with the ability to supply remote island outposts, and bypassing (“hopping over”) those remote areas and cutting them off from supply . . . thus starving them to death. It was a brilliant strategy and the only means by which the US military could maintain an elongated war, far from home against a brutal enemy, and retain the support of the American people.



Island Hopping. The Lower Arrow is MacArthur/Army; the Upper the Navy/Nimitz.

¹³ On 8 December Japanese forces had invaded the Philippines, forcing Commander Douglas MacArthur to evacuate to Australia. MacArthur promised the Filipinos that ‘I shall return;’ his remaining soldiers were captured and forced on a death march to Japanese prison camps on the Bataan Peninsula. This became known as the **Bataan Death March** and was considered yet another Japanese atrocity . . . not the way to endear yourself to an enemy against whom your only path to victory is through negotiation.

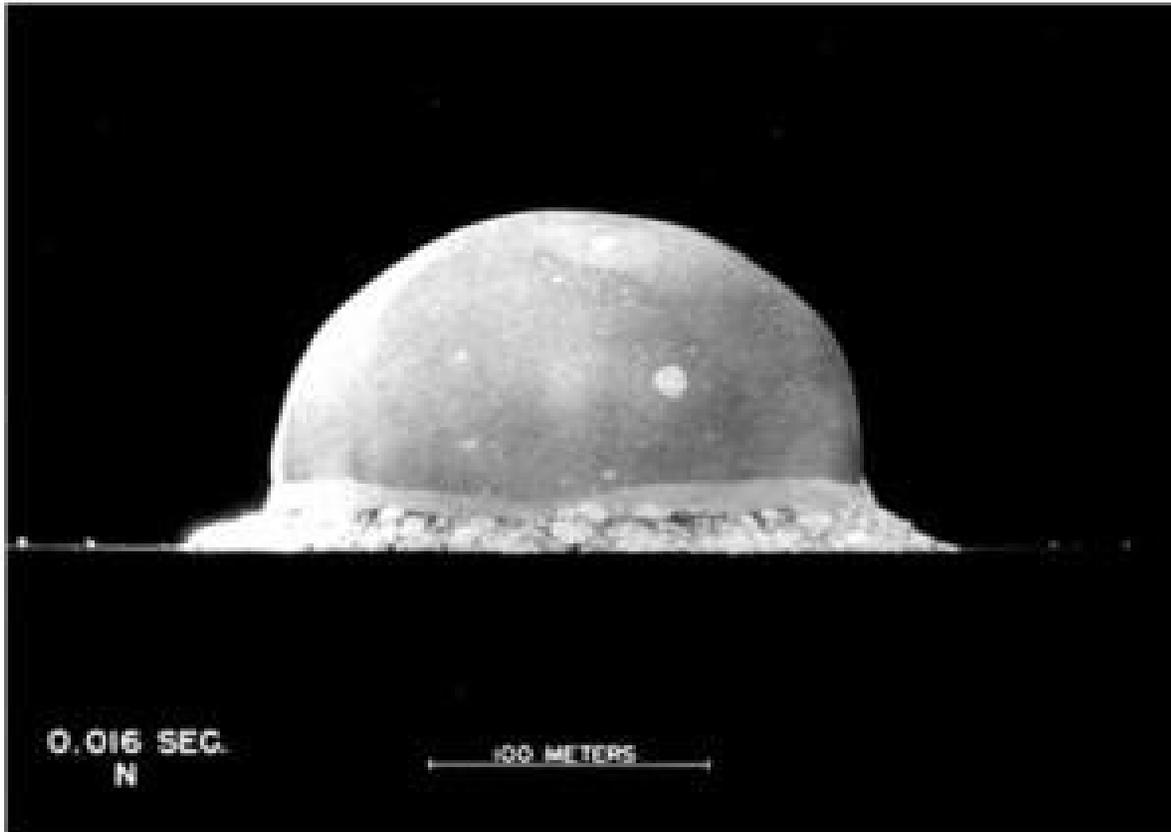
The War Winds Down: Island hopping worked, and worked well. By the spring of 1945, as Germany was collapsing under Soviet and American/British envelopment, the US had moved into bombing range of the Japanese home islands. Over a three day period in October In 1944, in the campaign to liberate the Philippines, the US Navy engaged the Imperial *Kaigun* in a death match known as the **Battle of Leyte Gulf: the largest naval battle in history**. Leyte also revealed the extent to which the Japanese military was decimated through the first appearance of suicide missions, known as the “divine wind,” or *kamikaze*.¹⁴ The American victory at Leyte removed the Japanese navy, once the source of Japanese strength, as a factor in the Pacific War. It was only a matter of time now, and the Japanese determined to fight to the death.

Iwo Jima: From February to March 1945 American troops attacked and seized the island of Iwo Jima, only 760 miles from Japan, in some of the fiercest fighting of the war. The five-week struggle for Iwo Jima provided the American public with the iconic image of the Pacific War, as US marines raised the American flag on the summit of Mount Suribachi. Suribachi was honeycombed with volcanic lava tubes which provided cover for Japanese defenders, contributing to the difficulty in clearing the island. US forces suffered approximately 6,800 deaths, while Japanese forces suffered an astonishing 19,000 dead: practically the entire defensive force on the island. Only 216 Japanese surrendered.

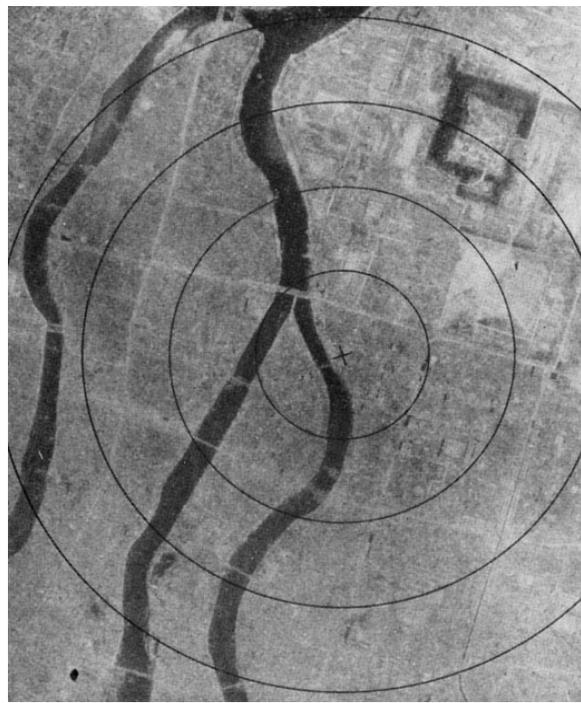
Okinawa: The next target for Nimitz’ forces was Okinawa, so close to the Japanese homeland it was considered one of the home islands. The battle lasted from 1 April to 22 June; casualty estimates are somewhat inconsistent. The US estimated death figures between 14,000 and 20,000 dead, while Japanese estimates range from 77,000 to 110,000. The major significance of this battle was horrifying: if Japanese forces would sacrifice thousands of lives for worthless chunks of rock like Iwo Jima and Okinawa, how would they react to an invasion of the Japanese homeland? American intelligence sources were already informing American strategists that the Japanese Army was instruction women and children to stand on the beaches armed with bamboo spears.

Trinity: On 16 July 1945, America was offered an option to its invasion dilemma, when physicists in Alamogordo, New Mexico attained the first controlled split of a uranium atom, resulting in the first atomic bomb in history, known as Trinity. Trinity was the culmination of a war-long program, code-named the **Manhattan Project**, to build an American atomic bomb, motivated primarily by the fear that the Germans would beat the Allies to it (see Einstein’s letter). FDR had died in April 1945 but had neglected (probably intentionally) to inform new President Harry Truman of the Manhattan Project. On the morning of Trinity, a shocked Truman, at the Potsdam Conference with Stalin and new British Prime Minister Atlee Clement, did not hesitate to order its deployment. Truman’s determining factor was the juxtaposition of lost American lives, primarily military, by virtue of invasion versus lost Japanese lives, primarily civilian, in an atomic bombing; his decision has remained the source of controversy. To Truman, it was a no-brainer. On 6 August, an American B-29 bomber, named the Enola Gay after pilot Paul Tibbett’s mother, dropped the world’s first atomic bomb on **Hiroshima**; three days later another B-29 dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki. That was all she wrote; on 2 September 1945, on the deck of USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan surrendered. The ost tragic, destructive war in history slogged to an end.

¹⁴ *Kamikaze* attacks featured both suicide from bomb-laden aircraft and human-piloted torpedoes. As the war neared an end, German rocket technology allowed the Japanese to construct launch rocket-powers kamikazes known as “cherry blossoms” by the Japanese; Americans called them the *baka* (“crazy”) bombs. Either way, they were terrifying.



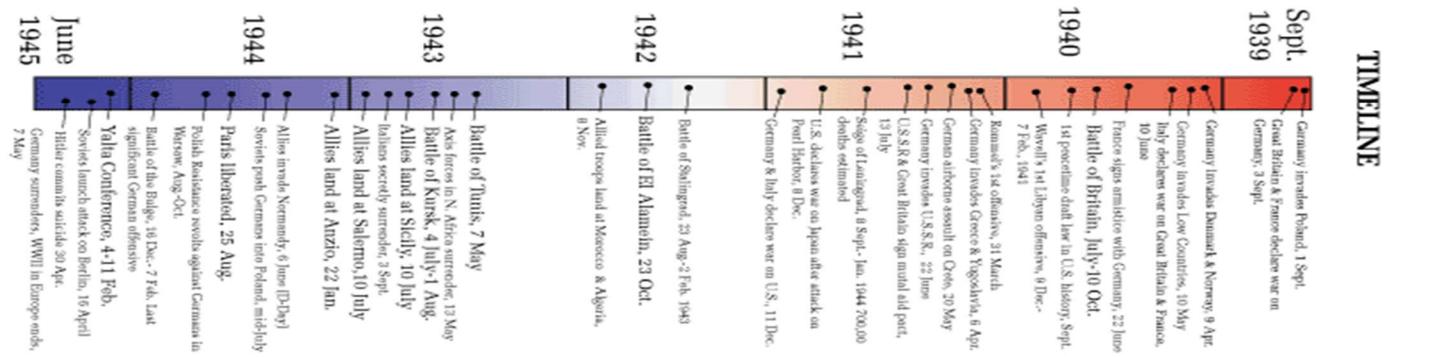
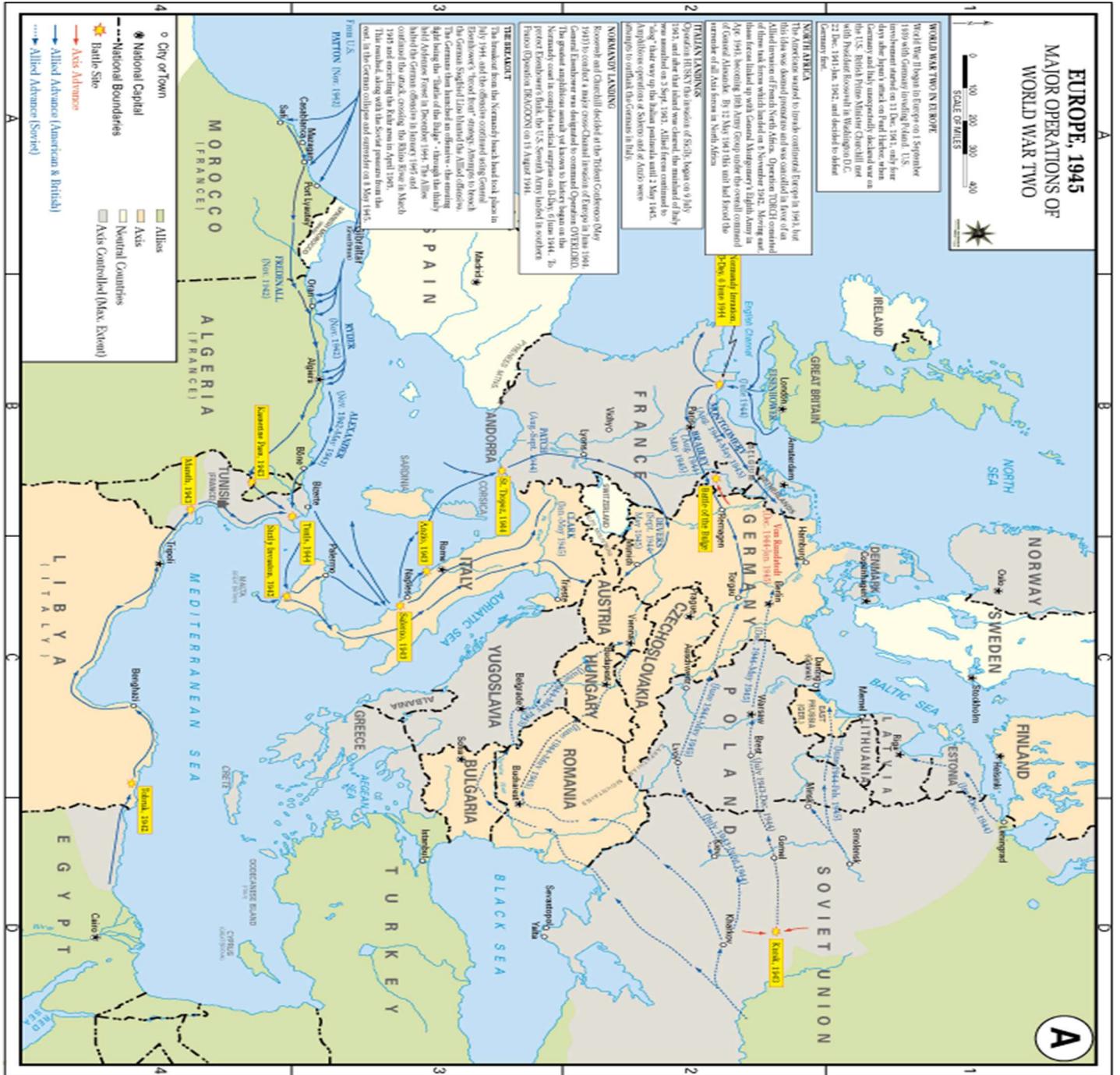
**Trinity: “I am become death, the destroyer of Worlds.”
(The Bhagavad-Gita, quoted by Dr. Robert Oppenheimer)**



Before and After Aerial Views of Hiroshima; the Fork of the River was Tibbett’s Aiming Point

WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE, 1939-1945

(Following Two Theater Maps Courtesy of The United States Military Academy at West Point)



WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC, 1941-1945

